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For more information contact:  
Ace Etheridge, (509) 372-8058

## **CH2M HILL Hanford Group Forms Community Advisory Council**

RICHLAND, Wash. -- CH2M HILL Hanford Group, Inc. has developed a community commitment plan that will get input from a seven-member advisory council of community leaders.

"It's a new way of working with the community to ensure CH2M HILL is living up to expectations of being a good corporate citizen," said CH2M HILL Hanford Group President Fran DeLozier. "The community advisory council members' input will help guide us as we continue to support a variety of programs in the area."

The company, which manages the Hanford tank farms, will periodically report to the community advisory council on its charitable contributions, employee volunteerism and efforts to diversify the economy. The council will provide feedback on the company's giving plans.

DeLozier said the company sought council members who represent varied but key organizations important to the Tri-Cities' economy and quality of life. The seven members of the council are Ed Allen, president of the Tri-Cities Corporate Council for the Arts; Tom Halazon, president of United Way of Benton & Franklin Counties; Bill Henderson, president and general manager of the Tri-Cities Enterprise Center; Dr. Larry James, WSU Tri-Cities campus executive officer and dean; Bill Martin, TRIDEC president; Dr. Lee Thornton, Columbia Basin College president; and Kris Watkins, Tri-Cities Visitor & Convention Bureau president.

Speaking on behalf of all members of the council, Martin said, "We are pleased to work with CH2M HILL on this plan. The company and its employees have demonstrated a commitment to this community with money and time, and we look forward to helping CH2M HILL continue with that stewardship."

CH2M HILL Hanford Group's community commitment plan captures the giving strategy the company has developed in the last few years, including economic development grants and charitable contributions.

The company's economic development grants are aimed at expanding the area's information technology industry and at supporting organizations and programs that have a proven track record of creating opportunities for entrepreneurs and technology professionals. Grants in fiscal year 2000 totaled more than \$1.3 million.

In August, CH2M HILL Hanford Group announced a six-year financial commitment to help launch a new CBC information technology incubator and education center, called the Columbia Basin Advanced Technology Center, or CBAT. The \$2 million endowment was the largest corporate donation ever given to the college.

Other grants created a new CBC associate degree program in database management, created a new computer science faculty position at Washington State University, Tri-Cities, and helped establish a CBC/WSU transfer office to help keep graduating CBC students in the Tri-Cities. In addition to the economic development grants, CH2M HILL Hanford Group also made charitable contributions for community-wide programs in education, health and human services, diversity, and culture totaling nearly \$125,000 last fiscal year.

While the company will continue to provide support to a wide range of organizations, it will, with input from the community advisory council, select one local organization annually to receive a major grant of corporate assistance.

The company's commitment plan also includes information on employee volunteerism. CH2M HILL senior managers and other employees serve as volunteers on the boards of community organizations or contribute their time and money to several worthy organizations including United Way, Tri-Cities Corporate Council for the Arts, Mid-Columbia Symphony, Boy Scouts, March of Dimes, American Cancer Society, the Volunteer Center and the

Workforce Development Council.

CH2M HILL Hanford Group is the prime contractor to the Department of Energy's Office of River Protection responsible for storage and retrieval of more than 53 million gallons of highly radioactive and hazardous waste in 177 large underground tanks at the Hanford Site.

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